

NOISE ORDINANCE UPDATE



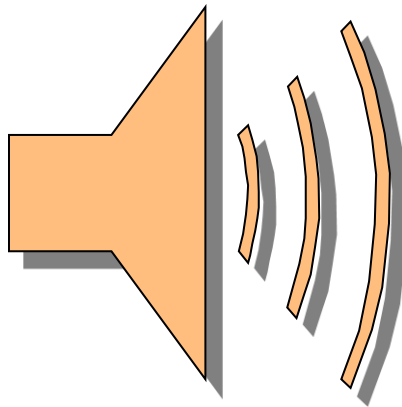
Presented at a
Public Meeting

By the
City of Fort Worth,
Planning and Development Department

January 23, 2012

Purpose

- Review **proposed updates** to the noise ordinance.
- Answer **questions** and receive **comments**.



Why is the City updating the noise ordinance?

To add **objective standards** for addressing continuous noise disturbances



What do the updates address?

1. Sound levels
2. Animal noise
3. Amplifiers on City property
4. Construction work
5. Solid waste collection

1. Sound Levels

Current Ordinance

Prohibits **unreasonably loud** noise.

Proposed Ordinance

Prohibits **unreasonably loud** noise.

Prohibits noise that exceeds **maximum sound levels**.



1. Sound Levels (cont.)

Common Sound Levels

- 0 dBA – Threshold of audibility
- 25 dBA – Suburban bedroom
- 50 dBA – Typical office
- 65 dBA – Conversation
- 80 dBA - Vacuum cleaner
- 105 dBA – Drum solo (at 5 ft)
- 120 dBA – Threshold of feeling
- 135 dBA – Threshold of pain
- 145 dBA – Top fuel drag racer (at 80 ft)

1. Sound Levels (cont.)

Maximum Sound Levels

- **Lower for residential** districts than other districts
- **Lower at night** than during the day
- Measured from **complainant's property** line
- **Residential levels** applied for residential complainant **adjacent** to other districts

1. Sound Levels (cont.)

Maximum Sound Levels in Cities

Residential Levels

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	dBA	
	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Denver	55	50
Kansas City	60	55
San Antonio	63	63
<i>Fort Worth (Proposed)</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>60</i>
North Richland Hills	75	60
Austin (amplification until 2a)	85	80
Arlington	None	None
Dallas	None	None

1. Sound Levels (cont.)

Maximum Sound Levels in Cities (cont.)

Non-Residential Levels

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	dBA	
	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
Denver (Commercial)	65	60
San Antonio (River Walk)	72	72
Denver (Public)	75	70
<i>Fort Worth (Proposed)</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>70</i>
North Richland Hills	80	70
Denver (Industrial)	80	75
Kansas City (Industrial)	80	80
Austin (amplification until 2a)	85	80
San Antonio (Entertainment)	85	85
Arlington	None	None
Dallas	None	None

1. Sound Levels (cont.)

Exceptions to Maximum Sound Levels

- Building ventilation and property maintenance
- Public and school property
- Government function
- Permitted Outdoor Event
- Large venue in Trinity Uptown
- Airport, railway, and vehicular transportation
- Gas drilling (addressed separately)

2. Animal Noise

Current Ordinance

Prohibits **animal or bird** from causing **frequent or long-continued** noise.



Proposed Ordinance

Prohibits **dog or rooster** from creating frequent, repetitive or continuous noise for **ten (10) minutes or longer**.

3. Amplifiers on City Property

Current Ordinance

Not addressed.



Proposed Ordinance

Prohibits bullhorn or other amplification in **public right-of-way** (e.g. **sidewalks**) and on **City property**.

3. Amplifiers on City Property (cont.)

Exceptions to Proposed Ordinance

- Public safety official
- Permitted Outdoor Event
- Permission from City department head

4. Construction Work

Current Ordinance

Prohibits construction work within 300 feet of an occupied residential structure **before 9 am** and **after 8 pm** on **Saturday** and **any time** on **Sunday**.

Proposed Ordinance

Prohibits construction work within 300 feet of an occupied residential structure **before 9 am** and **after 8 pm** on **Saturday and Sunday**.

5. Solid Waste Collection

Current Ordinance

Not addressed.

Current Policy

Prohibits noise from haulers within 300 feet of residential zoning before 6 am or after 11 pm, unless granted waiver from City.

Proposed Ordinance

Incorporates above policy.